



CHARLTON

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Incorporated in 1755 and located in the Commonwealth's south-central quadrant, the Town of Charlton is 50 miles or less from five major New England cities; Boston, Worcester, Springfield, Hartford and Providence. The town's history includes James Capen Adams (1807-1860), better known as "Grizzly" Adams, one of the last of the mountain men. When he headed west in 1852, Adams was a discontented 45-year-old cobbler. During his eight years in the Rockies, he became a friend and slayer of grizzly bears. He survived several hand-to-fang encounters and did a successful tour with P.T. Barnum. He died with his boots on and is buried in the Old Burying Ground in Charlton. His headstone, a carved relief of the buckskin-clad "Grizzly", was ordered by Barnum himself. The cemetery, now known as the Bay Path Cemetery, also contains three photographic stones, headstones with small glass-covered niches in which were placed daguerreotypes of the deceased. Once the vogue, few of these curious stones now remain. On Charlton Common is a memorial to Dr. William Thomas Green Morton (1819-1868), the man whose experiments with ether first made anesthesia possible during surgical operations. Working with a dentist, Dr. Morton made the first extractions of the deep roots of teeth using ether in 1846 and one month later performed a major operation at the Massachusetts General Hospital with an etherized patient. Easy access to major highways such as I-90, I-84, I-290 and I-395, as well as Charlton's abundant available land, have changed the size and character of the town in the last decade from wholly rural to rural/residential.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

South central Massachusetts, bordered by Spencer on the north, Leicester on the northeast, Oxford on the east, Dudley and Southbridge on the south, Sturbridge on the west, and East Brookfield on the northwest. Charlton is 17 miles southwest of Worcester, 40 miles southwest of Boston, 36 miles east of Springfield, and 165 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 43.95 sq. miles

Land Area: 42.71 sq. miles

Population: 9,576

Density: 224 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Buffumville Lake Station)

Normal temperature in January.....21.7°F

Normal temperature in July.....69.8°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.4"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Leicester, Webster, East Brookfield, Southbridge

Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Worcester



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 248-5900

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Executive Secretary

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1755

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	5,851		
Democrats	1,448	24.7	%
Republicans	867	14.8	%
Other parties	2	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	3,534	60.4	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Charlton town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	11,263	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	11,263	100.0
Male.....	5,515	49.0	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	110	1.0
Female.....	5,748	51.0	Mexican.....	11	0.1
Under 5 years.....	810	7.2	Puerto Rican.....	81	0.7
5 to 9 years.....	1,020	9.1	Cuban.....	1	-
10 to 14 years.....	979	8.7	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	17	0.2
15 to 19 years.....	812	7.2	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	11,153	99.0
20 to 24 years.....	412	3.7	White alone.....	10,980	97.5
25 to 34 years.....	1,519	13.5	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	2,354	20.9	Total population.....	11,263	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,668	14.8	In households.....	11,066	98.3
55 to 59 years.....	484	4.3	Householder.....	3,788	33.6
60 to 64 years.....	338	3.0	Spouse.....	2,555	22.7
65 to 74 years.....	424	3.8	Child.....	3,879	34.4
75 to 84 years.....	266	2.4	Own child under 18 years.....	3,155	28.0
85 years and over.....	177	1.6	Other relatives.....	401	3.6
Median age (years).....	35.4	(X)	Under 18 years.....	150	1.3
18 years and over.....	7,887	70.0	Nonrelatives.....	443	3.9
Male.....	3,818	33.9	Unmarried partner.....	246	2.2
Female.....	4,069	36.1	In group quarters.....	197	1.7
21 years and over.....	7,558	67.1	Institutionalized population.....	180	1.6
62 years and over.....	1,053	9.3	Noninstitutionalized population.....	17	0.2
65 years and over.....	867	7.7	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	362	3.2	Total households.....	3,788	100.0
Female.....	505	4.5	Family households (families).....	3,045	80.4
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,716	45.3
One race.....	11,193	99.4	Married-couple family.....	2,555	67.4
White.....	11,047	98.1	With own children under 18 years.....	1,411	37.2
Black or African American.....	26	0.2	Female householder, no husband present.....	372	9.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	23	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	247	6.5
Asian.....	52	0.5	Nonfamily households.....	743	19.6
Asian Indian.....	5	-	Householder living alone.....	551	14.5
Chinese.....	18	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	166	4.4
Filipino.....	9	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,830	48.3
Japanese.....	1	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	527	13.9
Korean.....	12	0.1	Average household size.....	2.92	(X)
Vietnamese.....	4	-	Average family size.....	3.24	(X)
Other Asian ¹	3	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	7	0.1	Total housing units.....	4,008	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	5	-	Occupied housing units.....	3,788	94.5
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	1	-	Vacant housing units.....	220	5.5
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	1	-	occasional use.....	140	3.5
Some other race.....	38	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.5	(X)
Two or more races.....	70	0.6	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	4.6	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races:</i> ³			Occupied housing units.....	3,788	100.0
White.....	11,104	98.6	Owner-occupied housing units.....	3,143	83.0
Black or African American.....	37	0.3	Renter-occupied housing units.....	645	17.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	52	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	3.06	(X)
Asian.....	77	0.7	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.26	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	11	0.1			
Some other race.....	52	0.5			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	36
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	1
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Located in the Worcester region, which has three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 connects to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

Principal highways are the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate Route 90), cross-state U.S. Route 20, and State Routes 31 and 169.

Rail

Conrail provides freight rail service through Charlton. Contact number: (617) 783-6222

Bus

Charlton is a member of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) but does not receive services.

Other

Southbridge Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility in nearby Southbridge, has a 3,500' x 75' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Masonic Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

Charlton Manor Rest Home, Inc

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.